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REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the informative interview of April 18, 2002 with respect to the present application. In view of the issues discussed during the interview as outlined in the interview summary, the Applicant respectfully submits a Supplemental Response to be considered in light of the previous response of April 9, 2002 and the relevant discussions between the Examiner and the undersigned representative of the Applicant.

Regarding the Examiner's concern specifically with the last paragraph in col. 2, lines 62 through 68 of Colato et al. '736, the Applicant reiterates that although Colato discusses the feeding of individuals from a location remote from food service facilities, the same paragraph discusses accomplishing the remote location feeding by "providing a refrigerated tray rack having means for heating certain of the food dishes on the trays therein.....". As discussed during the interview and as pointed out in the previous response, Colato et al. specifically utilizes a rack including a heating element for each tray deposited therein and that this tray rack is also refrigerated in some manner.

Further, the last paragraph of col. 2 of Colato et al. '736 does not state that racks are transported to remote locations without first being positioned in a regeneration receptacle or cart. Colato requires that the regeneration receptacle or cart Ca with one or more racks C of loaded trays of food contained therein be transported from the central supply point to the desired location where regeneration takes place as is stated in Colato et. al. '736, for example, at col. 2, lines 16-20, which states:

The enclosure or cart with its tray rack or racks and complete trays within the same may be prepared with food at a central supply point and then conveyed to any desired location and during such time all food on the tray remains refrigerated.

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Moreover, the last paragraph of col. 2 of Colato et al. '736 states that "Location feeding...can be accomplished by providing a refrigerated tray rack" (Colato's rack C) "having means for heating certain food dishes on the trays therein as hereinbefore described and transported by an appropriate vehicle" (Colato's cart Ca) "having means for holding one or more tray racks" (Colato's racks C). The "refrigerated tray rack" referred to is Colato's rack C, and the "vehicle" referred to is Colato's cart Ca.

In contrast, under Applicant's method, the regeneration receptacle is not loaded at the central food preparation area and transported to a remote location from the central food preparation area for regeneration of the food. Rather, in accordance with Applicant's invention, only the rack loaded with trays of food is transported between the central food preparation area and the remote location, which eliminates the need for expensive regeneration carts to be transported outside the site where they are used.

The absence of heating and cooling means on the rack (as recited in new claims 41-46) and the elimination of the need to transport heating and cooling means from the location where the food is prepared to the location where regeneration takes place are not taught, suggested or disclosed by the prior art. Moreover, Applicant's claimed inventive method provides huge advantages detailed in Applicant's specification which are not known in the prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art.

In view of the discussions of April 18, 2002, Applicant has added six new independent claims to round out the coverage of the claims. Please enter the new claims before substantive reconsideration of this application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

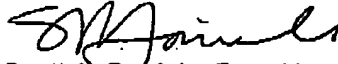
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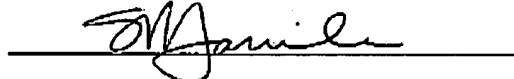
Respectfully Submitted,



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